

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 23, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. ROACH, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 1501.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1501) for the relief of Mrs. Lucy Alexander Payne, have examined the same and report:

The claimant in this case, Mrs. Lucy Alexander Payne, is the widow of Capt. J. Scott Payne, Fifth United States Cavalry.

The record of Captain Payne is a very honorable one, and he rendered very brilliant and gallant service in the campaign against the Utes, especially in what is known as the Milk River fight, wherein the gallant Major Thornburgh lost his life. After the fall of Major Thornburgh the command devolved upon Captain Payne, who made a gallant and successful resistance against overwhelming numbers of Indians, bringing his command out of the dangerous position with great credit. He was particularly mentioned by his commanding officer for his conduct in this affair, and was recommended for promotion, which, for some reason, never came to him.

He was twice wounded during the fight referred to, and was a great sufferer before his death. His widow is now in feeble health, suffering from the strain brought on by her faithful attendance on her husband during his last illness. She is without means and dependent upon her pension for the support of herself and two minor children.

Your committee recommend that the bill be amended by striking out all after the word "month," in line 7, and inserting "in lieu of the pension she is now receiving," and as thus amended the bill do pass. Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting an increase of pension to Lucy Alexander Payne, widow of Captain J. Scott Payne, Fifth United States Cavalry."